
CHECKLIST & TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPLICANT: Anne Arundel County, Maryland

NAME OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY: Brooklyn Park

Please review the checklist of attachments and furnish all of the attachments that are applicable. Contents of the notebook should be tabbed and organized as follows:

- ☐ **TAB #1 Applicant Information**
- ☐ **TAB #2 Sustainable Community Baseline Information - In addition to hard copies of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. Maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, wolters@mdhousing.org.**
- ☐ **TAB #3 Local Capacity to Implement Plans & Projects: Attach Sustainable Communities Workgroup roster noted in Section III**
- ☐ **TAB #4 Sustainable Community Plan**
- ☐ **TAB #5 Progress Measures**
- ☐ **TAB #6 Local Support Resolution**
- ☐ **TAB #7 Signed Sustainable Community Application Disclosure Authorization and Certification**

**All documents on this checklist are mandatory.
Failure to provide the requested document will automatically deny your application.**

I. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICANT INFORMATION**Name of Sustainable Community:** Brooklyn Park

Legal Name of Applicant: Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Federal Identification Number: 52-6000878

Street Address: PO Box 6675

City: Annapolis	County: Anne Arundel	State: MD	Zip Code: 21401
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Phone No: (410) 222-7450	Fax: (410) 222-7255	Web Address: www.aacounty.org
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Sustainable Community Contact For Application Status:

Name: Lynn Miller	Title: Planning Administrator
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Address: 2664 Riva Road	City: Annapolis	State: MD	Zip Code: 21401
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Phone No: 410-222-7431 x	Fax: 410-222-7487	E-mail: PZMILL03@aacounty.org
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Person to be contacted for Award notification:

Name: Lynn Miller	Title: Planning Administrator
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Address: 2664 Riva Road	City: Annapolis	State: MD	Zip Code: 21401
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Phone No: 410-222-7431 x	Fax:	E-mail: PZMILL03@aacounty.org
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II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Through this section, applicants will demonstrate that trends and conditions in homeownership, property values, employment, commercial and residential vacancy, community facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, the local business and residential districts show a need for new or continued revitalization reinvestment. Demographic data and trends provided by Applicants should support the choice of the proposed Sustainable Community Area boundary and help form a basis for needs and opportunities to be addressed through the initiatives and projects described in the Sustainable Community Action Plan (Section IV).

POINTS IN THIS SECTION WILL BE AWARDED BASED ON THE SC AREA'S NEED FOR REINVESTMENT AS EVIDENCED BY THOROUGH DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS OR TRENDS (and will not be based upon current or planned revitalization activities which will be covered in Section IV).

A. Proposed Sustainable Community Area (s):

County: Anne Arundel

Name of Sustainable Community: Brooklyn Park

Include boundary descriptions and a map of the Sustainable Community. In addition to hard copies of the of the project location map, a detailed listing of parcels (i.e. Parcel ID Numbers) that form the project boundary should be included. If possible, maps should also be submitted in electronic GIS form (shape file). If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Brad Wolters, Senior GIS Specialist, DHCD, Wolters@MdHousing.org

The proposed Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community is bordered by Baltimore City to the east, Baltimore County to the north, MD 648 to the west, and I-695 to the south.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Approximate number of acres within the SC Area: 2,700.00

Existing federal, state or local designations (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Legacy Area | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Neighborhood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Street | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Historic District | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register Historic District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A & E District | <input type="checkbox"/> State Enterprise Zone Special Taxing District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRAC | <input type="checkbox"/> State Designated TOD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____ | |

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

Prior Revitalization Investments & Smart Growth:

(a) List and describe any significant State and local smart growth or revitalization related program investments (for instance, Community Legacy or SC Rehab Tax Credit) that have been invested in the Area since the launching of Maryland's Smart Growth initiative and programs in 1997 (including Housing investment). What impact have these investments made in the community? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park became a State Designated Neighborhood in 1998 in order to qualify the community for housing, economic, and community development assistance through State and local investments. After further documenting the high crime, aging and deteriorating housing stock and blight in the area, the Brooklyn Park community was designated a Community Legacy Area in 2001.

Since 2006, Brooklyn Park has also been identified as a Neighborhood Revitalization Area in the County's Consolidated Plan, which is adopted by the County Council per requirements by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The area was one of three selected for this designation due to a high concentration of housing and urban development needs, including a high number of lower income residents and a concentration of older housing stock in need of renovation.

Over this time period, the County has successfully applied for over \$1.8 million in Community Legacy funds, with the goal to rehabilitate the older, owner-occupied housing stock to increase property values, stabilize the homeownership rate, and create an attractive community of affordable homes to support the County's workforce through targeted rehabilitation and acquisition programs. The County has supported the acquisition and rehabilitation of 18 units for a total development cost of \$2.9 million of combined CDBG, Community Legacy, and County general funds. In addition, 23 owner-occupied units have been rehabilitated for a total investment of \$1.6 million using a variety of funding sources including Community Legacy.

The Ritchie Highway (MD 2) corridor in Brooklyn Park is one of the County's adopted Commercial Revitalization Districts, providing eligible commercial property owners assistance for making improvements to their properties through the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Program and other financial incentives, as well as architectural services. The County also commissioned a \$75,000 Urban Design Study, which focuses on recommended improvements to the commercial corridor, with a vision to turn the area into a pedestrian-friendly center. A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was established to oversee improvements to the area.

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) Business Corridor Investment Loan Program provides up to \$35,000 at zero percent interest for facade improvements to commercial properties in the Brooklyn Park Commercial Revitalization area. The program also includes an Architect on Call Program that offers up to \$1,500 in architectural design services. These incentives have resulted in several million dollars in private investment in the commercial corridor. AAEDC recently commissioned a Market Feasibility Study of the area to lure new investors to the area. The Corporation also offers business counseling and financing assistance to eligible businesses.

The State Highway Administration has provided significant Community Safety and Enhancement funding along the Ritchie Highway Corridor to improve traffic and pedestrian safety. A complimentary Anne Arundel County Capital Project provided traffic and pedestrian enhancements on Church Street.

Other area investment includes a \$1 million private renovation of the Shoppers Grocery Store on Ritchie Highway, a proposed 1300-unit residential development at Ritchie Highway and MD 695, and the Greens at Hammonds Lane housing complex for seniors of moderate means.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(b) Describe any existing barriers to Smart Growth that may affect your jurisdiction or the proposed SC Area. For instance, does your area have higher development fees than outer “cornfields”?

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Existing barriers to Smart Growth in the Brooklyn Park area include lack of capital funds to address aging infrastructure, disinvestment in the older commercial core areas, lack of pedestrian connections and safety improvements, lack of community identity and focusing of development to other parts of the County.

Brooklyn Park is one of the older, first-ring suburbs of Baltimore City, and its visual identity is defined in large part by the auto-oriented development patterns along Ritchie Highway. The commercial areas, particularly in the central portion of the corridor, include deep setbacks along the road frontage with large parking lots and a narrow or fragmented sidewalk network. Therefore, lack of visual appeal is considered a barrier to attracting new development or redevelopment.

Although most of the commercial buildings along Ritchie Highway are in fairly good condition, there is a need for façade and signage improvements to improve the aesthetics of the commercial district. Additionally, although there are sidewalks along Ritchie Highway it is not considered to be a pedestrian-friendly corridor due to high traffic volumes, concerns for pedestrian safety and lack of other amenities.

Brooklyn Park is primarily built out, although there are a few infill opportunities for new development. This can also act as a barrier to Smart Growth since new development in the area will typically require redevelopment of existing improved sites. Developers of new projects will often choose to locate elsewhere in the County in areas where undeveloped land is still available. Stronger incentives for redevelopment, including State funding assistance, will benefit the community.

Although many of the residential neighborhoods are well-kept and attractive, there are some neighborhoods east of Ritchie Highway that are less well-maintained. These are located in the brick townhouses near the elementary school and library. Some of the units are in visible disrepair (i.e., peeling paint, broken windows, etc.), with vacancies scattered throughout the neighborhood. Furthermore, these units lack architectural features and visual appeal. Absentee ownership has been an issue in the past as well as crime, abandoned vehicles and other code violations. Improvements have been seen in recent years, in part due to community development investments that have focused on home rehabilitations and homeownership programs and increased police attention. Nevertheless, additional improvements are needed so that these neighborhoods do not discourage new investments in the greater community.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

B. Community Conditions: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses in the proposed Area's existing built environment. For example, what is the condition of housing? Are there underutilized historic buildings and cultural places? What is the condition and availability of community parks and recreational assets? Are there transportation assets? What is the current condition of community infrastructure such as roads and lighting? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park is a classic first-ring suburb situated in close proximity to a center city and developed mainly before the era of rapid suburbanization. The community has changed very little in the last 30 to 40 years. It is a stable community with several strengths.

The residential neighborhoods are, for the most part, attractive and tidy. The neighborhoods on the west side of Ritchie Highway are comprised of well-maintained single family detached homes built in the first half of the 20th century. These are attractive and are generally in good condition.

Brooklyn Park is well served by major freeways, arterial highways and collector roads. The Baltimore Beltway (I-695), which provides access to the entire Baltimore region, can be accessed via an entrance ramp just south of Brooklyn Park. The Harbor Tunnel Thruway (I-895) and I-97 provide north-south connections to Baltimore and Annapolis.

Public transit opportunities are also available in Brooklyn Park. The Baltimore Light Rail System provides service nearby at the North Linthicum and Nursery Road stations. The MTA also provides bus service in Brooklyn Park connecting Baltimore and Annapolis. The primary stops on this bus line are Annapolis, the Patapsco Light Rail Station and downtown Baltimore. The bus line is located along the Ritchie Highway corridor and serves the residential neighborhoods as well as the commercial corridor.

The Ritchie Highway corridor contains a variety of commercial uses within three identifiable shopping centers: Arundel Village, Brooklyn Park Plaza and Ritchie Highway Shopping Center. These centers offer a range of goods and services catering to the local neighborhood market.

Institutional uses include a library, two elementary schools, the Brooklyn Park Middle School and a post office. There are five County-owned parks serving the various residential neighborhoods, including ball fields and basketball courts. The Patapsco Valley State Park also borders Brooklyn Park, though it is primarily a passive use park with few amenities.

The Chesapeake Arts Center, which is located in the heart of the Brooklyn Park area, is a flourishing regional arts center that provides numerous classes and activities for children and adults, two theatres for productions and events, as well as space for artists in residence. It is located adjacent to the Brooklyn Park Middle School which offers a performing and visual arts magnet program.

A final asset in the community is the Lloyd Keaser Community Center located in the Pumphrey neighborhood, a historically African American community. The Lloyd Keaser Center, which was rehabilitated with County Community Development Block Grant funds, provides space for a Head Start Program, a child care center, and other community events and activities.

The primary weaknesses in the community's built environment are:

- the lack of pedestrian-friendly activity areas for shopping and entertainment;
- the poor visual appeal of the commercial district;
- the lack of stormwater management infrastructure; and
- the need for rehabilitation in some residential blocks, primarily in the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village neighborhoods, to improve property values and homeownership.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the Area's land use/zoning make-up (residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed-use). Is the current land use or zoning conducive to revitalization investment? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park is one of the most densely developed communities in the County and is primarily built-out, with the exception of a few key infill opportunities. Existing land uses in Brooklyn Park are primarily residential but also include commercial, industrial, and institutional uses. Most of the land area is developed with medium to high-density residential uses, primarily single-family homes on small lots zoned R5. There are also a few higher density hubs zoned R15 which are developed with older rowhouse units. These areas are located along Belle Grove Road just south of Baltimore City, and in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. There is one mobile home park, Terrace View, in the area located along I-895.

Commercial uses include retail, service, and professional offices and are located principally along Ritchie Highway, which is the main commercial corridor serving the area. It includes a few major shopping centers as well as individual small businesses. There is a smaller commercial hub at the intersection of Belle Grove Road and Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard which contains two hotels along with a few restaurants and other services.

There is a cluster of light industrial uses, zoned W2, located south of Belle Grove Road along I-895. These include some trucking, contracting, and auto-related businesses. A heavier industrial area zoned W3 is located north of I-695 at the Baltimore City border. It is used for storage and distribution of petroleum products.

There are also two former industrial areas that represent key infill opportunities for brownfield redevelopment in Brooklyn Park. One site is a former sand and gravel mining operation off of B&A Boulevard which comprises nearly 140 acres. It has since been rezoned for residential use (R5 and R10 zoning), providing a future opportunity for new housing development of either single-family homes or townhomes and potentially some multifamily housing. Portions of this site are within reasonable walking distance (1/2 to one mile) of the Baltimore Light Rail system.

The second brownfield site is roughly 250 acres located on the east side of MD 2. It is a former Federal Superfund site and hazardous waste dump. A developer has spent several years acquiring and assembling the acreage and successfully sought rezoning of most of the land to R10, with the goal of developing a new Planned Unit Development with a mix of residential housing types. As many as 1,300 new residential units could potentially be built here, within easy commuting distance to downtown Baltimore.

In addition to the two brownfield redevelopment opportunities, another prime opportunity for revitalization investment in Brooklyn Park is the Ritchie Highway commercial corridor. It is a designated Commercial Revitalization Overlay District in the County's zoning ordinance and the County seeks opportunities to promote investment in revitalization of the corridor through redevelopment, façade and streetscape improvements, and new business attraction.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

3) Describe strengths and weaknesses in basic features of community quality-of-life. For instance, is crime an issue for this SC Area? What is the condition and quality of educational choices available to the community? Are artistic, cultural, or community resources, events or facilities within or accessible to residents in the proposed SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

A recent market study performed on behalf of the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation identified several unique challenges and opportunities in the Brooklyn Park community.

The challenges identified include:

- the domination of a high-traffic state highway (Ritchie Highway) that serves as a firm division between the east and west neighborhoods of Brooklyn Park;
- the lack of a central meeting place that could bring divided communities together;
- poor pedestrian access along the commercial corridor;
- aesthetic issues throughout the commercial corridor;
- scattered nuisance and aesthetic issues in the residential neighborhoods, primarily on the east side of Ritchie Highway;
- crime or the perception of crime in pockets of the commercial corridor and in some eastern residential neighborhoods;
- the lack of a positive community identity to make it an appealing place for new residents, businesses or shoppers; and
- competition for consumer dollars from several adjacent commercial areas in Anne Arundel County.

The community's strengths include:

- a convenient location with easy access to the larger Baltimore metro region and Downtown Baltimore;
- good public transit service via a light rail line and MTA bus service;
- relatively good proximity to Fort Meade and related employment opportunities;
- relatively affordable housing in comparison to other parts of Anne Arundel County and the Baltimore region;
- a local community with an affirmed interest in improving and revitalizing the area;
- the Chesapeake Arts Center, an arts and entertainment center that hosts theater and music events as well as classes;
- a mix of commercial uses that provide surrounding neighborhoods with basic goods and services including supermarket, pharmacy, and general retail uses including discount department stores;
- overall good retail market conditions in a densely developed area with a significant middle and upper middle income population;
- market strength for expanding grocery store offerings;
- a new public library and elementary school; and
- new investments in the area including plans for 1300 new homes and the \$3.25 million renovation of the Shoppers Warehouse store in the Ritchie Highway Shopping Center.

Brooklyn Park offers many educational opportunities at the primary and secondary levels. The Brooklyn Park Middle School is part of a community complex that houses the Brooklyn Park Senior Center, the North County Recreation Center, the Brooklyn Park Middle School, a Performing and Visual Arts Magnet school and the Chesapeake Arts Center that offers both cultural performances and classes that compliment the Arts Magnet Program.

The community is within easy commuting distance of the Anne Arundel Community College campus at the Glen Burnie Town Center. The campus offers a variety of science and technology classes as well as hospitality, culinary arts and tourism (HCAT) courses. This also enhances employment training and opportunities offered at the nearby Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation's One Stop Career Center. Both the Community College and the Career Center are accessible by public transportation.

Other important community resources include active community organizations, a strong C-SAFE program sponsored by the Police Community Relations Council, a new Fire Station and several parks. In addition, the County funds the Brooklyn Park Teen Club and the Chesapeake Arts Scholarship Programs with local Community Development Block Grant funds.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

C. Natural Resources and Environmental Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the community's "natural environment." in or near the Sustainable Community Area. What is the current condition of key natural resources - lands, air, water, watersheds, tree canopy, other? If the community is located in a coastal zone, what risks might the community be subject to associated with climate induced sea level rise? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Brooklyn Park area is one of the most urbanized areas in the County. Natural areas are limited primarily to the Patapsco Valley State Park and Patapsco River, which forms the northern County boundary in this area, and the Cabin Branch Creek stream valley which drains to Curtis Bay and the tidal portions of the Patapsco River.

Estuarine areas of the Patapsco River and Curtis Bay are classified by MDE as Use I streams which are generally suitable for fishing and propagation of aquatic life. There have been periodic postings of advisories against fish consumption from the Patapsco River in the area due to poor water quality.

The County recently completed a Patapsco Non-tidal Watershed Assessment which evaluated existing environmental conditions in the watershed and identified targeted protection and restoration areas to reduce degradation of water resources and meet State water quality goals. Within that watershed, the Patapsco Mainstem subwatershed is located in the Brooklyn Park area and comprises 1,030 acres or about 38 percent of the proposed Sustainable Community area. The watershed assessment ranked all subwatersheds based on indicators including stream ecology, nutrient load impairments, amount of impervious area treated by Best Management Practices (BMPs), water quality, forest cover, and developed acres within the Critical Area. The assessment results assigned the Patapsco Mainstem subwatershed in Brooklyn Park as having the highest priority for restoration of all the subwatersheds in the Patapsco Non-tidal Watershed.

This need for restoration would primarily be implemented via stormwater management retrofits in this highly developed area that currently has limited stormwater quality management due to the age of the majority of the development. The watershed study recommends some concept plans for restoration that will be included in the Sustainable Community Action Plan.

The Brooklyn Park area is also located within the Patapsco Tidal Watershed. The County is also preparing a Watershed Assessment study for this watershed. The County is currently developing concept design plans for selected restoration projects in the Patapsco Tidal area as well, some of which may be located in the Brooklyn Park area.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of any current efforts to reduce the community's "carbon footprint" or impact on the environment. Is recycling (commercial or residential) available to minimize waste? Are there current efforts to encourage the purchase and availability of fresh local food and other local products and services to the community? Describe any current energy or water conservation efforts that may be underway. If the community has not implemented one of the above initiatives, has the community identified a need or interest to pursue these or other efforts to reduce environmental impact, for instance through the new Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Anne Arundel County has undertaken several initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainability. Most of these are countywide initiatives and do not focus on one specific community, but collectively aim to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainable practices throughout the County. Some key initiatives are discussed in this section.

County Recycling Program:

Anne Arundel County has operated a residential recycling program for many years. In 2008, the County developed a Recycling Outreach Initiative focused on increasing the residential recycling rate from 31% to 50 %, decreasing waste generation, and reducing the loading rate at the County's sanitary landfill. The County has also implemented a comprehensive marketing campaign to inform the public of expanded recycling services, has established a recycling website (www.RecycleMoreOften.com) to promote recycling and waste minimization, and has made several enhancements to the recycling service provided to citizens. Since the 50% program was established, the residential recycling rate has increased to approximately 40 percent. In addition, Recycling Specialists regularly conduct numerous educational events in elementary, middle and high schools throughout the County.

County Farmers Market Program:

Anne Arundel County partners with the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture to promote and coordinate six local farmers markets. These markets feature local producers selling only locally grown produce and goods. The farmers markets are located in the Parole Town Center, Severna Park, Deale, Piney Orchard, and the City of Annapolis. The County hopes to coordinate the establishment of a future farmers market to serve communities in northern Anne Arundel County including Glen Burnie, Brooklyn Park, and Pasadena.

Strategic Plan for Energy Efficiency and Conservation:

Anne Arundel County developed and submitted an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) in 2009 under the Federal Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program administered by the U.S Dept. of Energy. The County received a funding allocation of up to \$4,463,400 to fund projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency. Several implementation projects are in progress.

First, a greenhouse gas inventory (GHGI) of County facilities was completed in 2011. The analysis is being used to identify the best long-term investments in energy and GHG emissions reduction strategies, identifying cost savings as well as environmental benefits. Energy audits have been completed for the Pascal Senior Center in Glen Burnie as well as two affordable multifamily rental complexes, and efficiency upgrades are planned or in progress. This process will be used as a template for establishing energy efficiency upgrade protocols Countywide.

Completed in June 2012, the Methane to Energy Project at the Millersville Landfill Facility (MLF) produces alternative energy, capturing 60 to 90 % of the methane created in the landfill. Revenues from the sale of electricity will be used to fund future waste management energy projects and countywide energy conservation projects.

Additionally, using EECBG funds as seed money, the County was able to institutionalize its Residential Energy Audit Program. As a result, homes undergoing rehabilitation through the County's owner-occupied rehabilitation program receive comprehensive energy audits and energy efficient improvements, as appropriate as part of the rehabilitation. Homes acquired and renovated in Brooklyn Park by ACDS utilizing CDBG, Neighborhood Conservation Initiative, and Community Legacy funds also benefit from energy audits and energy efficient upgrades.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the jurisdiction's current stormwater management practices and how these may affect the proposed SC Area. Is redevelopment and retrofitting of infrastructure an issue or opportunity in this SC Area? Stormwater runoff is a significant source of pollution to Maryland's streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Buildings constructed before 1985 have little or no stormwater controls, and development between 1985 and 2010 have some controls. Updated stormwater regulations passed by Maryland's General Assembly in 2010 require that development and redevelopment projects utilize stringent stormwater controls. Sustainable Community Areas may have opportunities for redevelopment practices that can reduce stormwater flows. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Anne Arundel County adopted a revised stormwater management (SWM) program in 2010 to incorporate the new provisions and regulations resulting from the State's 2007 Stormwater Management Act. The County's SWM Program consists of code provisions in Article 16 (Floodplain Management, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management) and Article 17 (Subdivision and Development) that relate to SWM design, new clustering provisions in Article 18 (Zoning) that allow for a reduced development footprint and increased open space, and a County Procedures Manual that outlines the processes and procedures for implementing the new regulations.

This approach encourages environmental preservation and improved water quality through environmental site design (ESD) and reductions in impervious areas. For example, new road sections have been developed to reduce paving widths where possible and eliminate storm drains in lieu of water quality swales. The SWM program also offers incentives for redevelopment by allowing a more streamlined review process and by allowing retrofits of outfalls, stream restoration, and regional watershed improvements in addition to on-site Best Management Practices.

The County's NPDES MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit, issued by MDE and required under the Federal Clean Water Act, includes requirements for retrofitting impervious surfaces not already managed for stormwater. The current permit requires the County to retrofit 10% of unmanaged impervious surfaces. The next permit will be issued before the end of calendar year 2013. In this new permit, the County will be required to retrofit 20% of the impervious surfaces not already managed to the maximum extent practicable. The interpretation of this requirement is to retrofit developed, impervious lands that are currently not served by stormwater management facilities and/or retrofit those impervious areas that are served by stormwater management facilities that were constructed prior to 2002. The Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community area would likely qualify as a candidate for stormwater management retrofit sites.

In addition, the County's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) was developed in 2011 and submitted to MDE as part of the County's response to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The WIP includes a core restoration strategy focused on stormdrain outfall retrofits, stormwater dry pond retrofits, Water Reclamation Facility upgrades, and connecting homes currently served by septic systems to the County's sanitary system. Again, SWM retrofits with redevelopment and use of innovative approaches will be key components of watershed protection in areas such as Brooklyn Park.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

D. Economic Conditions & Access to Opportunity: Strengths and Weaknesses

(1) Describe the jurisdiction's current economic strengths and weaknesses. For example, are there distinct economic drivers in the area or region that will affect access to job opportunities and the progress of the SC Plan? What are the main barriers to the Area's economic competitiveness? What is the current level of broadband access available to serve residents, businesses and public facilities? What efforts are currently in place to increase worker skills and employment? Describe trends in employment rates and business formation.

(Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park has easy access to the greater Baltimore metro area, BWI Airport, MTA Light Rail, several business parks in northern Anne Arundel County, and Fort Meade, making it accessible to many employment opportunities in the area.

Current employment in the Brooklyn Park area is distributed over a wide range of industrial sectors. These sectors include Aerospace/Defense, Scientific & Technical, Health Care, Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Support Services along with other technology-driven industry due to the location of Fort Meade, the National Security Agency (NSA), and the many defense contractors located in the County. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocation to the Fort George G. Meade military base will bring both additional jobs and households to the Brooklyn Park area as well as to the County in general.

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) provides economic development leadership for the County by building alliances with regional partners, recruiting new employers, supporting existing employers, and providing loans to new and expanding businesses, with marketing targeted to minority and women-owned businesses.

AAEDC programs can provide direct financial assistance to Brooklyn Park businesses. The Arundel Business Loan Fund (ABL) provides loans to a maximum of \$300,000 to new and expanding businesses in the County. The loans are guaranteed through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and can be used for capital, equipment, or other improvements. The ABL Fund has provided over \$9.5 million in financing to 81 businesses over the last ten years.

AAEDC also provides County-funded financial incentives for extraordinary economic development opportunities through the Incentive Loan Program. This loan provides a local match focused primarily on projects involving proposed State incentives from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

AAEDC also recently created a Business Corridor Investment Loan Program (BCILP) which offers zero interest loans of up to \$35,000 to qualified business owners for improvements including building exterior renovations, landscaping or other site improvements, and interior improvements. The program has assisted ten businesses and provided \$300,000 in financing.

AAEDC also partners with the State Departments of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide local business financing alternatives.

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), a non-profit organization, focuses its CDBG-funded public services on supportive services designed to develop job-ready candidates who possess the basic knowledge, technical skills and behavioral attributes needed to gain meaningful employment in the County, as well as provide them with the social support needed for successfully maintaining employment. Services include job-related programs such as education and job training, behavioral skills training, English as a Second Language courses, job placement assistance to unemployed and underemployed low income residents, as well as related services including affordable child care and transportation.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(2) Describe the jurisdiction's housing market and access to affordable workforce housing. What are the trends in residential construction (rental and homeownership), homeownership rate, foreclosure rate and, property values. Describe how and whether your jurisdiction's prevailing housing costs - both homeownership and rental - are affordable to households below 120% AMI, 80% AMI and 50% AMI. What efforts are in place currently to house individuals, families and the disabled at or below the AMI levels described above? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Brooklyn Park area is a key focus in the County's efforts to improve existing quality affordable workforce housing opportunities and strengthen older neighborhoods through neighborhood revitalization strategies, including dramatic exterior façade improvements.

Since the early part of the last decade, the housing market has shifted causing prices to come down; however, foreclosures have been up. Unfortunately, the rise in foreclosures and simultaneous housing price decline has had a disproportionate effect on the older, existing communities, underscoring the ongoing need for focus in the County's revitalization areas. Now, more than ever, efforts to stabilize the housing stock and improve the quality of community life are needed if quality affordable housing opportunities are to be available to County residents of modest means.

Despite downward price trends in the real estate market, there continues to be a relative lack of quality, affordable housing – especially rental units - in Anne Arundel County, and this problem will only be exacerbated with the continued influx of development associated with BRAC. In 2009, the County contracted with Sage Policy Group, Inc. to conduct a Housing Market Study of the BRAC impacted area. Sage concluded that housing demand in the BRAC-impacted area of Anne Arundel and Howard County will greatly exceed supply for households earning less than \$60,000 per year. This has significant implications for communities within the Brooklyn Park area and points to the need for developing workforce housing opportunities whenever possible.

The targeted communities of Brooklyn Park, which include Arundel Village and Brooklyn Heights, contain a significant proportion of the County's scattered affordable housing. However, these neighborhoods are in need of revitalization assistance in order to make them attractive places for workforce families. The County's Office of Planning and Zoning estimates that approximately 65 percent of units in Brooklyn Park are single-family detached homes and 35 percent are rowhouses, with the majority of these rowhomes concentrated in Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village. Over time many of the rowhomes were converted to two or three unit apartments and rented on a short term basis to multiple tenants. The majority of homes in the Brooklyn Park area are over fifty years old, with most of the land already built out and only a small amount of new construction occurring on infill sites. It is estimated that over 70 percent of the housing units in the area were built prior to 1960, compared to just 32 percent for the County as a whole. The rowhomes comprise a disproportionate number of the aging housing units, and are suffering from deferred maintenance and a need for systems upgrades, as well as architecturally obsolete facades.

According to the 2010 Census, 78.5 percent of housing units in the Brooklyn Park area are owner-occupied, while 21.5 percent of the units are occupied by renters. While the percent of renters in Brooklyn Park was just slightly lower than the countywide average, there are three block groups with over 30 percent renters, including the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village neighborhoods where some of the units have been converted into apartments, many of which are poorly managed and poorly maintained.

The number of foreclosures in the area, while not a major issue at the start of the last decade, has grown over the last several years. In the Spring of 2009, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development identified the Brooklyn Park community as "high risk" of foreclosure incidents based on a number of variables, including the high numbers of foreclosed and abandoned properties, high unemployment and other economic variables affecting housing demand and low household incomes.

II. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY BASELINE INFORMATION

(3) Describe the SC Area's demographic trends (with respect to age, race, household size, household income, educational attainment, or other relevant factors). (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The population in Brooklyn Park has declined 21 percent since 1970, as compared to the County which has grown by 64 percent. This decline can be attributed to the fact that the area is largely built out and there is little opportunity for new development. In fact, according to the Brooklyn Park Small Area Plan, the Brooklyn Park area is only expecting an 8 percent increase in population by 2025, while the County overall anticipates almost double that percentage with a 15 percent expected growth rate. The Brooklyn Park area also has a higher proportion of elderly residents ages 65 and older (12 percent) as compared to the County (10 percent) based on the American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data for 2006-2010. These elderly residents often live on a fixed income limiting their ability to maintain or upgrade their homes or move into more expensive housing units. According to the ACS survey, the median household income for the entire Brooklyn Park area was \$39,871, compared to \$61,768 for the County as a whole. The median income for one census tract block group within Brooklyn Park is only \$30,391, less than half the County median.

As of the 2000 Census, the area had a greater number of White residents (92 percent) compared to the County as a whole (82.2 percent). In the area of educational attainment level, residents of Brooklyn Park have lower education levels than the County as a whole. Only 5.8 percent of residents have Bachelors degrees, as compared to 19 percent countywide and only two percent have higher level degrees, as compared to 11.5 percent for the County as a whole.

The incidence of crime in the area is also a challenge. Pockets of drug use and crime, especially in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood, contributed to the community first being designated by the County and State as a HotSpots area in 1997, and later as a Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) area for targeted crime intervention. Crime data from recent years indicates higher incidences of assault and theft arrests than in other areas of the County, as well as arrests for narcotics and disorderly conduct.

There are limited health statistics available for the Brooklyn Park area at this time. However, Anne Arundel County Health Department data compiled in 2004 shows that cancer outcomes in the Brooklyn Park "region" are worse than for the County as a whole. This is a strong indicator that other health outcomes in the area may be poor relative to other parts of the County. The County maintains a Health Clinic in the area, which provides a Healthy Start Program for expecting mothers, infants and toddlers. In addition, in an effort by the County to respond to resident concerns in the area, the Health Department has an environmental health office at the clinic and conducts routine environmental health inspections in the area and regularly cites homeowners for any noted violations.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

A. Organizational Structure:

Describe the Applicant's organizational structure. Specifically, which organizations are members in the Sustainable Communities Workgroup and who are the respective staff? Who are the leaders, and how will the Workgroup advisor or staff manage implementation of the SC Area Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The County is fortunate to have a team of experienced professionals who will work together to implement the Plan. Members of the team include the Office of Planning and Zoning, the Department of Public Works, and the non-profit organizations Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. and Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation. This team has a proven track record of success in community revitalization, housing and economic development. In addition, the County has strong ties with community groups that have actively participated in past planning processes.

The County Office of Planning and Zoning includes several divisions that will be involved in implementation of the Action Plan. The Long Range Planning Division has prepared the General Development Plan, the Small Area Plan, and the Urban Design Study in concert with community representatives. They have a proven ability to work with the community to assure a successful outcome. The Transportation Planning Division has experience implementing public transit plans, pedestrian and bicycle projects, and Complete Streets initiatives. The Development Division will be involved in the review and approval of development and redevelopment plans and compliance with the requirements of the Anne Arundel County Code.

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), a non-profit corporation, is the contractual partner with the County to implement the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs, as well as State and locally-funded housing and community development programs. Each year, ACDS applies for Community Legacy and Neighborhood Conservation Initiative funds, on behalf of the County, to carry out activities in targeted neighborhoods like Brooklyn Park. Prior to privatization, ACDS was part of the County's Office of Planning and Zoning. ACDS has over twenty-five years of experience in housing and community development. They have initiated innovative housing projects, partnering with public and private developers.

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), also a privatized agency, is active in the business community, seeking investors and businesses to locate in established commercial areas. The agency will actively assist to recruit and retain businesses in the Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community.

The community itself has embraced these efforts and welcomes additional investment to improve its aging housing stock and meet its community needs. The most recent Consolidated Plan, which documented the need for the community's designation as a revitalization area and established goals and strategies for future investment, included an extensive public and community engagement process. Input was solicited at several public meetings as well as through smaller meetings with the community associations.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

B.Organizational Experience:

Describe the Applicant organization's past experience in administering revitalization plans and projects. Describe the roles of the members of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup, including their experience in implementing revitalization initiatives. What are the strengths and challenges of the capacity of these groups with respect to implementation of the SC Plan? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Office of Planning and Zoning staff has strong planning backgrounds and a proven ability to work with the community to assure a successful outcome. Examples of successful projects include the Glen Burnie Town Center, a mixed use project that received the 2000 Governor's Smart Growth Award; the Ferndale Business Corridor project along MD 648; and Neighborhood Business Development Program projects in Glen Burnie and Odenton. The office will work closely with all the other agencies ensuring the plans for revitalization are implemented.

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS) is under contract with Anne Arundel County to administer Federally-funded housing and community development programs, including the CDBG and HOME programs, State Special Loan Programs, such as the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Lead Paint Abatement Program, and Community Legacy and Neighborhood Conservation Initiative activities. The agency has over 25 years of experience implementing homeownership programs including first time homebuyer counseling, foreclosure prevention counseling and owner-occupied rehabilitation. In addition, the Corporation acquires and develops a growing portfolio of scattered site rental homes, as well as develops homes for sale to first time homebuyers.

The Brooklyn Park Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Property Rehabilitation Programs will be administered by ACDS. The Corporation's operations are overseen by an 11 member Board of Directors, with its everyday direction and administration managed by an Executive Director. The Executive Director works with the Project Director, who oversees the Program Development Specialist and the Construction Specialists in the daily implementation of the programs. A Projects Planner assists with general grant administration and reporting, while professional finance staff prepare all invoices and ensure that appropriate financial back up is included and financial records are maintained.

The Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation will be responsible for working with the businesses within the Brooklyn Park area. They will ensure that the businesses know what types of services are available. In addition, they will work on recruiting new businesses to the area.

III. LOCAL CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS & PROJECTS

C. Public Input:

How did residents and other stakeholders in the community provide input to Action Plan described below in Section IV? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Anne Arundel County developed a Small Area Plan for Brooklyn Park in 2003-04. A citizen committee appointed by the County Executive worked with County staff in developing the plan. The Small Area Plan was approved and adopted by the Anne Arundel County Council in 2004. Following on the recommendations from the Small Area Plan, the County conducted an Urban Design Study, completed in 2010, that focused on the Ritchie Highway commercial corridor in Brooklyn Park. The study, which included public input received during several community meetings, presented design concepts for redevelopment and streetscape improvements to enhance the function and appearance of the commercial corridor. Upon completion of that study, a Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed to promote further implementation of the study. The committee included officials from several County and State agencies involved in economic and community development.

Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS) prepared the County's Consolidated Plan for FY 2011-FY2015. The Consolidated Plan was approved after a lengthy public participation process which included three public hearings, in addition to a hearing conducted by the County Council, and several meetings with Brooklyn Park community associations. The Plan documented the need for the community's designation as a revitalization area and established goals and strategies for future investment. Each year additional funds are appropriated for programs in the Brooklyn Park area through the annual budget process, which also includes at least two public meetings. The community was also instrumental in developing the design standards for ACDS' Rehabilitation Program for this community through design charettes conducted by ACDS in partnership with the Neighborhood Design Center and area community associations. The community itself has embraced these efforts and welcomes additional investment to improve its aging housing stock and meet its community needs.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Community Action Plan (SC Plan or Plan) is meant to be a multi-year investment strategy - a strategic set of revitalization initiatives and projects that local partners believe will increase the economic vitality and livability of their community, increased prosperity for local households and improved health of the surrounding environment. The Plan should be flexible enough to be updated regularly and renewed every five years as the community envisions new goals. The priority initiatives and projects in the SC Plan should improve the livability of community places -- residential, commercial, or other public or private properties - and create new work, retail, recreational and housing opportunities for residents. These projects should also reduce the environmental impact of the community through water and energy resource conservation and management strategies. In this way, the Plan can be a road map for local stakeholders as well as State agencies to work together to create a more a sustainable and livable community.

A. Supporting existing communities & reducing environmental impacts.

(1) A community's approach to Smart Growth generally includes two inter-related areas of focus: encouraging reinvestment and growth in existing communities; and, discouraging growth that degrades natural resources, and farms and rural landscapes. Broadly describe your jurisdiction's Smart Growth approach and any significant accomplishments made over the last decade or so. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community has received several official designations allowing eligibility for assistance under various Federal, State and County programs related to economic development and Smart Growth initiatives, including:

- ? a targeted Neighborhood Revitalization Area in the County's Consolidated Plan prepared for the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development;
- ? a State Priority Funding Area (MDP);
- ? a State Community Legacy Area (DHCD);
- ? a State Designated Neighborhood (DHCD);
- ? a State Community Conservation Area (SHA); and
- ? a County Commercial Revitalization District.

Federal, State and County governments have already made significant investments in the area including public improvements, housing rehabilitation and commercial revitalization. Recent private investment includes the rehabilitation of several older retail centers and businesses, new retail and office space, and a planned unit development that will provide a wide range of housing choices in the area. More details on recent State and local investments in the area and their outcomes may be found in Section II - Baseline Information.

The Brooklyn Park community already meets many of the State's Smart Growth goals. It contains a mix of land uses which provide a variety of housing opportunities and choices. It is served by both bus transit and rail transit options. Strong community and stakeholder collaboration already exists, as discussed in Section III – Local Capacity to Implement.

The County's approach to Smart Growth in this community is to continue to encourage reinvestment in the community using all available resources including CBDG and other HUD funds; State funds through Community Legacy, Community Safety and Enhancement, and similar programs; and continued participation in the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit and Business Corridor Investment Loan programs administered by the County.

Use of these resources will focus on:

- ? creating new housing opportunities in key infill sites;
- ? continued rehabilitation of existing residential properties;
- ? increasing the supply of workforce housing;
- ? promoting revitalization along the Ritchie Highway corridor;
- ? promoting retention and expansion of existing businesses through financial assistance and other incentives;
- ? focused business attraction efforts along the commercial corridor;
- ? funding capital projects to provide stormwater management retrofits; and
- ? increasing the use of public transit in the area.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Describe any major investments in community infrastructure -water, stormwater, sewer, sidewalk, lighting, etc. -- that must be undertaken in order to improve the readiness or competitiveness of the proposed SC Area for private investment and compliance (if applicable) with TMDL regulations. Addressing the stormwater during redevelopment can reduce the pollution entering our streams and contribution to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Investments in infrastructure, generally, can be an important catalyst for new private investment in the community. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Much of the infrastructure needed to support reinvestment in the Brooklyn Park community currently exists with sufficient capacity, including a good road network connecting the community to major area and regional hubs, public transportation, parks, public schools, a library, community and senior centers, and public water and sewer service.

The primary investments in infrastructure that are still needed to help meet revitalization and reinvestment goals are:

- ? pedestrian amenities to improve community connections, such as crosswalks, pedestrian lighting, and continuous sidewalks along Ritchie Highway and Belle Grove Road.
- ? streetscape improvements to enhance appearance, especially along Ritchie Highway, such as a continuous planting strip to separate the sidewalks from the highway, and additional tree plantings in the median.
- ? consolidation of ingress and egress points along Ritchie Highway to eliminate curb cuts.
- ? an attractive public plaza within the commercial corridor for public gatherings and events.
- ? redevelopment of some large retail sites along Ritchie Highway to reduce the appearance of large surface parking lots and too much asphalt.
- ? building façade enhancements in commercial areas.
- ? stormwater management retrofits to reduce pollutant loads to the Patapsco tidal and non-tidal watersheds.

Both public and private initiatives will be required as well as partnerships. Some improvements such as sidewalks, street lighting and pedestrian amenities can be accomplished using SHA programs such as the Community Safety and Enhancement projects, and the County will continue to seek funding assistance through such programs. Improvements such as minimizing surface parking lots, enhancing building facades, and retrofitting stormwater management facilities are often implemented during private redevelopment of a site, but can be leveraged with public incentives, tax credits, loan programs, grant funds, and capital programs. Some improvements will be regulatory requirements, such as compliance with the County's latest SWM regulations adopted in 2010 for all redevelopment sites.

The County will strongly promote and market its incentive and loan programs which, in combination with State revitalization programs, will provide future opportunities to redevelop and revitalize the area. The County would also like to develop a comprehensive facade improvement program based on recommendations from the Brooklyn Park Urban Design Plan, with the goal of creating a more cohesive, pleasant and inviting look to the main commercial district.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that the community will undertake or expand in order to reduce the SC Area's impact on the environment. Examples include but are not limited to: conservation or management of stormwater through retrofitting of streets and by-ways (Green Streets, rain gardens, etc.); retrofitting of facilities and homes for energy conservation; implementation of "green" building codes and mixed-use zoning; recycling of waste; clean-ups of watersheds; and, encouragement of "Buy Local" approaches that benefit local suppliers and food producers. A comprehensive menu of such actions may be found through the nonprofit Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The primary initiatives and projects that will help to reduce environmental impacts in the Brooklyn Park area are related to watershed restoration and stormwater management (SWM) improvements to reduce pollutant loads to local waterways.

As described in Section II- Baseline Information, the County updated its stormwater management program in 2010 to comply with new State requirements. Adopted policies and code provisions focus on Best Management Practices, cluster development, environmental site design, reductions in impervious areas, and incentives for redevelopment. Collectively these provisions will reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff, soil erosion and sedimentation, flooding, and pollutant transport.

In its FY14 Capital Budget and Program, the County has established a new capital projects Class B, with funding related to the stormwater fee and new Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund to be adopted by July 2013. Within the Brooklyn Park community, the County has requested funding for five (5) capital projects over the six year program. These five projects will implement retrofits to eroded outfalls (step pool conveyance systems), stream restorations using in-stream weirs and seepage wetland creation, and stormwater pond retrofits (dry pond conversions to wetlands or wet ponds) to realize water quality benefits from nutrient and sediment load reductions. The projects were identified from information collected during the Patapsco Nontidal and Patapsco Tidal watershed assessments in order to achieve compliance with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements and the County's NPDES MS4 requirements. If all five projects are funded, the County will accomplish 48 outfall restorations, 66 stormwater management pond retrofits, and 13,000 linear feet of stream restoration by the end of FY19.

Other County programs to reduce environmental impacts through recycling, energy conservation, and renewable energy are discussed in Section II- Baseline Information. These initiatives may lead to future implementation projects specific to Brooklyn Park. For example, as part of both the Brooklyn Park Property Rehabilitation and Acquisition and Rehabilitation Programs, residential homes will be eligible for energy retrofits which will, in addition to decreasing utility costs, have a positive affect on the overall environment.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed in 2010 to combine the efforts of various County departments, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) in promoting and implementing the revitalization of Brooklyn Park. The committee includes expertise in economic development, community development, capital project planning, and public participation.

The Revitalization Committee includes representatives from the following departments, agencies, and associations:

Anne Arundel County Departments
Office of Planning and Zoning
Dept. of Public Works
Public Schools
Police Dept.
Libraries Dept.
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Anne Arundel County Council, District 1 Councilmember

Other Representatives
Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation
MD State Highway Administration, Special Projects Division
MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development
Chesapeake Arts Center
North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn Park Community Associations

The Revitalization Committee will continue to meet regularly to discuss specific implementation tasks needed, identify grant and other funding opportunities, develop outreach and marketing strategies, identify opportunity sites, track progress, and provide coordination among the key stakeholders.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

B. Valuing communities and neighborhoods -- building upon assets and building in amenities:

(1) What are the key assets that exist in the community upon which the Plan's projects and initiatives will build? Assets may include physical assets such as parks and historic structures and also civic and economic assets such as employers, educational institutions, and cultural organizations and activities. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park is one of the few communities in Anne Arundel County where residents can walk to public transportation, public facilities, services, and retail centers. More detail about major community assets may be found in Section II- Baseline Information of the application.

The key assets of the community that the action plan will build upon include:

- ? the convenient location within the greater Baltimore metro area and close proximity to downtown Baltimore, BWI Airport and surrounding employment opportunities;
- ? access to public transportation via the Light Rail and MTA bus transit systems, which are within walking distance for many Brooklyn Park residents;
- ? a variety of commercial retail and service uses that provide the surrounding neighborhoods with basic goods and services;
- ? overall good retail market conditions given the density of residential development and the significant middle income population;
- ? recent investments in the area including a \$3.25 million renovation of the Shoppers Warehouse store in the Ritchie Highway Shopping Center;
- ? an affordable housing stock;
- ? key community facilities within walking distance of many neighborhoods, including the library, County parks, four schools, and a senior center;
- ? a regional arts center that offers classes, performances and special events and provides working studio space for professional artists; and
- ? a local community with an affirmed interest in improving and revitalizing the area.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What policies, initiatives or projects will reuse or enhance the historical assets, traditional business districts/Main Streets and cultural resources of the community? What actions will reinforce your community's authentic "sense of place" and historic character? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The traditional business district in Brooklyn Park is the Ritchie Highway corridor. As discussed in Section II- Baseline Information, several recent investments and initiatives have been made toward revitalizing the corridor and creating a more vibrant activity area.

Key action plan steps that will build upon these initiatives include developing a comprehensive revitalization strategy, and implementing the recommendations from the Brooklyn Park Urban Design Study.

A comprehensive plan for revitalization of the business district will include:

- ? providing additional incentives for revitalization through the County commercial revitalization program, including new development incentives to be considered for inclusion in the program.
- ? promoting and marketing existing loan programs to increase participation among commercial business owners.
- ? working with property owners and developers to explore opportunities for broad-scale redevelopment of outdated, outmoded commercial centers.
- ? seeking assistance, potentially through a public-private partnership, to implement recommendations from the Urban Design Study for façade improvements, street trees and landscaping, improved lighting, public plazas, and pedestrian amenities. These improvements may be implemented on a site-specific basis or as a more comprehensive program for the corridor.

In addition to improving the central business corridor, initiatives to enhance cultural resources and create a sense of place in Brooklyn Park include continuing to promote the community as a center for the cultural arts. The existing assets to build upon are the Chesapeake Arts Center, a regional center providing numerous classes and activities, performances and events, and working studio space for artists in residence; and the Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) Magnet Program at the middle school. The magnet program offers an educational choice for highly able and motivated arts students interested in achieving maximum potential both artistically and academically. The program is designed to engage students in intense instruction by qualified teachers, professional artists, and teaching artists.

Action plan steps to further establish Brooklyn Park as a cultural arts center include:

- ? expanding and strengthening the Chesapeake Arts Center programs. Public outreach and surveys in Brooklyn Park as well as the greater regional area will help determine what arts and entertainment offerings would be most supported by the greater community.
- ? strengthen links between businesses and the Chesapeake Arts Center. Ideas such as special promotions of businesses at Arts Center events and local business sponsorships of events will be pursued.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe policies, initiatives or projects that will increase community access to green spaces, parks and other amenities? A community can gain social and physical benefits from access to a healthy natural environment. The inclusion of complete streets, trails, green space, parks and trees contribute to the character and health of a community. Examples might include improvements to the tree canopy by planting street trees, improving local neighborhood streams, or reusing a vacant lot for a new community park or playground.*(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

As Brooklyn Park is a relatively compact area, existing parks are easily accessible by the local community. Brooklyn Park is a densely developed inner suburb and, with the exception of two large future infill sites, is primarily built out to its development potential. Therefore, opportunities for planning or acquisition of additional passive park areas are limited. Redevelopment projects will provide opportunities for additional green space and open areas.

However, as discussed earlier, the establishment of a public gathering place centrally located in Brooklyn Park, along or near the primary commercial and business corridor, would be a significant enhancement to the greater community. This could be in the form of a public plaza or park, with green spaces, trees and landscaping, benches, picnic tables, fountains, or other features. Ideas for community use could include a seasonal farmers market, arts and crafts festivals, summer concerts, performances, picnics, or other special events.

Another concept for additional green spaces was developed in the Brooklyn Park Small Area Plan. An improvement concept was presented for several blocks of rowhouses fronting on Ballman Court in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. In addition to building façade improvements, the concept included improvements to a vacant area located in the center of the rowhouses to create a more attractive community space. Amenities such as a brick walkway, flower beds, a park sign, a tot lot, benches and lighting, and a metal rail fence with gates would convert the relatively unused space into an attractive park area that residents would use.

The Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee will identify options for future implementation of these concepts.

Another potential project that would improve access to local trails would be completion of pedestrian features (sidewalk or hiker-biker trail) continuously from Belle Grove Road in Brooklyn Park, across B&A Boulevard and southward along Camp Meade Road, and connecting to the BWI Trail. Sections of this route currently include a trail or sidewalks but the entire length is not complete. The County will pursue opportunities for future connection with the State Highway Administration.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed in 2010 to combine the efforts of various County departments, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) in promoting and implementing the revitalization of Brooklyn Park. The committee includes expertise in economic development, community development, capital project planning, and public participation.

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MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development

Chesapeake Arts Center

North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce

Brooklyn Park Community Associations

The Revitalization Committee will continue to meet regularly to discuss specific implementation tasks needed, identify grant and other funding opportunities, develop outreach and marketing strategies, identify opportunity sites, track progress, and provide coordination among the key stakeholders.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

C. Enhancing economic competitiveness

(1) What economic development policies, initiatives or projects will improve the economy through investments in small businesses and other key employment sectors? What economic development and business incentives will you build upon or implement as part of the SC Plan? Examples could include but are not limited to: green-taping for expedited project application review; permitting and inspection; job training; business tax credits; and, revolving loan funds. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

One of the County's ongoing policies is to maintain a favorable climate to attract and retain diverse businesses and industries, to support sustained job and income growth, and to maintain a strong tax base.

The County has identified a select set of industry targets toward which its marketing efforts will be concentrated. These targets were selected based on their compatibility with County attributes, their potential for retaining, expanding and attracting new operations, and the outlook for the industry. These industry targets, all in close proximity to the Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community, include aerospace and defense, science and technology, professional and technical services, health care, manufacturing, and construction.

The Action Plan will seek to improve economic competitiveness in Brooklyn Park by:

- ? actively promoting retention and expansion of existing businesses through financial assistance, employee training and other incentives.
- ? focusing economic development and business attraction efforts in Commercial Revitalization Districts which includes the Ritchie Highway corridor in Brooklyn Park.

The principal financial assistance programs that will be used to offer incentives to businesses include:

- ? Arundel Business Loan Fund -- offers SBA-guaranteed loans up to \$300,000;
- ? Business Corridor Investment Loan Program -- offers zero interest loans and other services for businesses.
- ? Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Program -- provides a property tax credit for the increased assessment value for improvements of \$100,000 or more to businesses in a revitalization district.

The Business Corridor Investment Loan Program encourages economic activity in the County's revitalization districts. The program is administered through the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) and offers property and business owners zero interest loans up to \$35,000 for improvements to the exterior and interior of their business. The program includes 15 hours (or \$1,500) of professional architectural design services at no additional cost to the business, provided the design is fully implemented. Improvements may include renovation of building exteriors; site improvements such as landscaping, signage, or lighting; and interior improvements such as painting, flooring, plumbing, or electrical work.

In addition, AAEDC will assist new and expanding businesses in Brooklyn Park in applying for other financial assistance offered through the State DHCD and DBED programs, such as the Neighborhood Business Works program that provides gap financing to small businesses, or the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) What workforce development policies, initiatives or projects will increase access to jobs and economic opportunity for residents in the SC Area? Do you have a goal for job creation? Are green jobs an opportunity in the jurisdiction or SC Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

There are a variety of agencies in the County whose mission is to develop job ready candidates who possess the basic knowledge, technical skills and behavioral attributes needed to gain meaningful employment in Anne Arundel County. These agencies offer a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of low income, unemployed and underemployed residents, as well as the population in general.

Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC) partners with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to offer a variety of programs to meet the workforce needs of County businesses. These include:

- ? Recruitment services – including employer recruitment events, applicant prescreening, pre-employment skills assessment, and applicant searches in Maryland Workforce Exchange.
- ? Job Fairs – AAWDC hosts several job fairs each year, often in partnership with entities such as Fort Meade and Anne Arundel Community College. In addition, AAWDC facilitates job fairs in each of the county's public high schools in the spring to connect businesses and summer job seekers. AAWDC also provides custom job fairs for businesses.
- ? Training – AAWDC works with partner agencies to identify other training solutions for businesses and employers. Funds for worker training may be available, with recent focus on training in cybersecurity and green building techniques.

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) also works in partnership with AAWDC and Anne Arundel Community College's Center for Workforce Solutions to provide a link between workforce development and economic development. AAEDC manages a Business Outreach Program through which it works with County employers to identify workforce needs and issues. AAWDC conducts recruitment fairs and job placement services to assist in industry-specific recruitment needs. In addition, AAEDC's Workforce Training Partnership provides grants to eligible companies for technical training and skills development with assistance from the Center for Workforce Solutions.

Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) provides CDBG funds to support public services designed to develop job ready candidates who possess the basic knowledge, technical skills and behavioral attributes needed to gain meaningful employment in the County; as well as provide them with the social support needed for successfully maintaining employment. Services include programs such as education and job training, behavioral skills training, English as a Second Language courses, job placement assistance to unemployed and underemployed low income residents, as well as related services including affordable child care and transportation.

Over the next five years, the County will set a goal of providing training or employment related services to 500 unemployed and underemployed low income residents. The County anticipates using its limited Federal CDBG public service dollars to leverage other Federal, County, State and private dollars available for such programs. Special efforts will be made to target the Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Describe whether the Sustainable Community will be impacted by the Base Re-alignment and Closure (BRAC) activities in Maryland. If impacted, how do the initiatives and projects in your Plan complement BRAC-related growth? (If not applicable, all ten points will be assessed based on answers to questions 1, 2, and 4) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) brought many new positions to Fort George G. Meade military base in Anne Arundel County. This relocation effort brings both additional jobs and households to the County as well as to the region in general. To address this BRAC-related growth, the Action Plan recommends:

- ? workforce preparation and occupational training, and
- ? establishing Brooklyn Park as a workforce housing initiative target area.

Fort Meade has been the site of relocation and consolidation of several Department of Defense organizations. The Federal Application and Security Clearance Training process was completed in 2011 and resulted in thousands of direct jobs being moved to the Fort Meade base. Job growth surrounding Fort Meade is continuing through supporting positions with the federal government and positions from new and expanding defense contractors.

With a grant from the US Dept. of Labor, Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation is assisting dislocated workers, veterans and transitioning military personnel in the County with workforce preparation training. Through use of workshops, employer panels, and information seminars, AAWDC can assist participants seeking BRAC-related occupations with Federal and security clearance applications, short term job training or on-the-job training to prepare them for BRAC-related jobs.

The BRAC Housing Study documents the need for BRAC-related workforce housing and with the relative affordability of housing in the community, Brooklyn Park is well suited to be a target for BRAC housing. The segment of workers earning between \$45,000 and \$70,000 per year will have difficulty finding suitable housing near Fort Meade. Brooklyn Park is relatively close and has many homes priced in the \$225,000 to \$325,000 range. Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) is currently engaged in an acquisition/rehabilitation program on the east side of Ritchie Highway that should continue and expand. Additional funding for this may be available through DHCD's Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Program. ACDS's efforts have improved the appearance of certain blocks in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood but should be expanded to have more substantial impact.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed in 2010 to combine the efforts of various County departments, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) in promoting and implementing the revitalization of Brooklyn Park. The committee includes expertise in economic development, community development, capital project planning, and public participation.

The Revitalization Committee includes representatives from the following departments, agencies, and associations:

Anne Arundel County Departments
Office of Planning and Zoning
Dept. of Public Works
Public Schools
Police Dept.
Libraries Dept.
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Anne Arundel County Council, District 1 Councilmember

Other Representatives
Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.
Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation
MD State Highway Administration, Special Projects Division
MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development
Chesapeake Arts Center
North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn Park Community Associations

The Revitalization Committee will continue to meet regularly to discuss specific implementation tasks needed, identify grant and other funding opportunities, develop outreach and marketing strategies, identify opportunity sites, track progress, and provide coordination among the key stakeholders.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

D. Promoting access to quality affordable housing.

(1) What housing policies, initiatives or projects will expand housing choices - rental and homeownership -- for people of a range of ages, incomes, and also for disabled individuals? How will these actions address the current housing conditions and needs noted in Section II? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Anne Arundel County is guided by the vision that in order to be a vibrant, attractive and economically prosperous community, the County must strive to create and maintain a diverse community of workers. This necessitates the creation and preservation of a housing market with a broad range of housing options for all income levels.

Action Plan initiatives to expand housing choices and promote better access to high quality affordable housing include:

- ? continue rehabilitation of existing residential properties in the Brooklyn Park community,
- ? concentrate efforts in the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village neighborhoods, which contain significant amounts of affordable housing but that are in need of revitalization assistance, and
- ? create affordable multi-family rental opportunities through new construction as infill development and preserve redevelopment of existing structures.

The County will continue to partner with Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County, and others to administer programs to address affordable housing needs. These include acquisition/rehabilitation programs, homeowner rehabilitation programs, innovative homeownership programs, rental housing production programs to create or preserve affordable rental housing, and housing vouchers. ACDS will use these programs to preserve and increase the supply of affordable housing, revitalize declining neighborhoods in Brooklyn Park, promote homeownership, and ensure housing for those with special needs.

Within Brooklyn Park, the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village communities have been shifting from an owner-occupied community to more of a rental community. This shift has led to deferred maintenance issues and an increase in zoning and other code violations in the area. The recent rise in foreclosures in the area further threatens the stability of the neighborhood as foreclosed and abandoned properties sit vacant and investors hunt for bargains for rental units. The lack of private investment in the community has led to a need for public funds to help revitalize the area. By purchasing and renovating the units, the housing is brought back into the affordable housing inventory helping to improve the overall stability of the community. This also encourages neighboring property owners to maintain or improve their homes. Such an approach is a priority for the Brooklyn Park area, given the housing stock's relative affordability and the tremendous need for stabilization and exterior enhancements.

In addition, the County will partner with the private development community to provide incentives for inclusion of workforce housing in future infill development or redevelopment projects. Two opportunity sites that will be targeted are the Southview Shopping Center site on Ritchie Highway, which has been mostly vacant for several years, and a former sand and gravel mining site near Belle Grove Road and B&A Boulevard. Furthermore, ACDS and the County are working with a private developer to explore a site on Hammonds Lane to develop new affordable rental housing for low income families.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) Will these housing initiatives or projects increase access to transit or community walkability and/or decrease transportation costs? In other words, will the housing investments result in more people living near work or town centers, or able to more conveniently reach work, school, shopping and/or recreation? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

Many Brooklyn Park neighborhoods currently have good access to public transit and walkability to schools, shopping, and recreation opportunities. MTA bus service along Ritchie Highway provides access to employment centers in Baltimore and links to the Light Rail and BWI Airport.

The Action Plan initiatives will provide more opportunities for residents who can utilize public transit and pedestrian amenities in Brooklyn Park.

? Revitalization and redevelopment along Ritchie Highway will incorporate designs to encourage more pedestrian activity.

? The County will encourage future development of the Belle Grove infill site to include workforce housing options which will be within walking distance of the MTA Light Rail station at North Linthicum.

? Future redevelopment of the Southview Shopping Center site may include a mixed use concept that could incorporate multifamily affordable units adjacent to the MTA bus route.

Additionally, Anne Arundel County's Office of Planning and Zoning, Transportation Division, is in the process of preparing a Transportation Functional Master Plan (TFMP) to assist in identifying activity centers, corridor enhancements and improved transit opportunities for the area. This effort is discussed further in Part E.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) What is your goal for of number of units to be created of affordable workforce housing, rental and homeownership? What populations (by income or special needs) will benefit from this increased access to affordable housing? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Over the next five years the County, with its partner Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS), will continue to target CDBG and HOME funds, as well as other County and State funds to acquire and rehabilitate twenty (20) properties in the Brooklyn Park community with a focus on the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village communities. These homes will be made available for sale to first time homebuyers or for rent through the ACDS Scattered Sites Rental Program. This strategy will improve and stabilize the housing stock, increase the community's overall desirability and increase affordable housing opportunities.

The County will also offer a variety of programs and incentives that will encourage homeowners to invest in their community by updating and modernizing their homes, thus stabilizing the housing stock and improving the quality of neighborhoods. Funds will provide financial assistance to twenty (20) eligible owner-occupied households for the rehabilitation of their homes.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(4) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed in 2010 to combine the efforts of various County departments, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) in promoting and implementing the revitalization of Brooklyn Park. The committee includes expertise in economic development, community development, capital project planning, and public participation.

The Revitalization Committee includes representatives from the following departments, agencies, and associations:

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Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation

MD State Highway Administration, Special Projects Division

MD Dept. of Housing and Community Development

Chesapeake Arts Center

North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce

Brooklyn Park Community Associations

The Revitalization Committee will continue to meet regularly to discuss specific implementation tasks needed, identify grant and other funding opportunities, develop outreach and marketing strategies, identify opportunity sites, track progress, and provide coordination among the key stakeholders.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

E. Support transportation efficiency and access.

(1) What policies, strategies and projects are envisioned to strengthen the transportation network that affects the proposed SC Area? How will these initiatives support transportation choices (including walking, bicycling, bus or rail transit, and carpooling) or otherwise promote an efficient transportation network that integrates housing and transportation land uses? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The County's transportation planning approach focuses on seven key elements:

- ? Maintenance of the existing transportation facilities inventory to protect public investment in facilities and to support redevelopment and revitalization of the County's neighborhoods and commercial areas;
- ? Expansion of the transportation facilities inventory to meet the increasing travel demand;
- ? Emphasis on improving safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists;
- ? Provision of alternative means of mobility through increased transit service;
- ? Implementation of travel demand management strategies;
- ? Inclusion of emergency management principles in transportation plans; and
- ? Expansion of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Action Plan recommendations to enhance transportation efficiency include:

- ? In the Transit Development Plan required by MTA for transit funding, identify areas currently underserved and recommend priorities to deliver transit service.
- ? Combine management of the fixed route County-operated services with the demand-response and specialized transit operated by the Department of Aging and Disabilities. This action will improve the coordination of services and reduce duplication of effort.
- ? Tailor transit services to the areas they serve and augment the services provided by MTA with circular routes connecting neighborhoods with desired employment, transit, and activity centers.
- ? Continue to promote rideshare, carpooling, and van pooling strategies to support transit use and offer options beyond the use of single occupant automobiles for mobility.
- ? Increase employer and resident awareness of rideshare programs, strategies, and opportunities.
- ? Require use of TDM strategies to reduce vehicle trips generated by new development as a condition of mitigation provided by new development projects to meet adequate public facilities requirements.

In addition, the County's Office of Planning and Zoning is currently preparing a Transportation Functional Master Plan which consists of several components:

- ? a Corridor Management Plan which identifies activity centers, corridor enhancements and improved transit opportunities for the area.
- ? a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan which identifies potential connections in the existing pedestrian and bicycle network that will create a more viable and competitive network, potentially reducing vehicle demand.
- ? a Complete Streets pilot study which will be used to establish County policies for future road building, retrofits, and improvements that look beyond moving traffic efficiently to accommodating pedestrians, bicycles, and transit in ways that meet the needs of adjacent communities and land uses.

The Action Plan will promote any additional recommendations that result from these planning studies. Implementation strategies will be developed for each and funding opportunities will be pursued.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) If applicable, describe the SC Area's connection or proximity to transportation centers (e.g. Metro, MARC, and light rail stations) and describe opportunities for Transit - Oriented Development (TOD). Will Plan strategies and projects contribute to jobs/housing balance or otherwise provide a mix of land uses that can be expected to reduce reliance on single-occupancy automobiles? (If transit or TOD is not applicable in your community, all points in this section will be based on questions 1 and 3) (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Brooklyn Park is currently well connected to public transit service. The community is served by MTA bus transit and is within two miles of the North Linthicum Light Rail station on Camp Meade Road and the Nursery Road Light Rail station on B&A Boulevard.

Opportunities for new transit-oriented development include planned and future redevelopment projects in the commercial revitalization district, an infill development site near the Light Rail stations, and a Planned Unit Development near Ritchie Highway.

All of the transportation planning initiatives discussed previously will contribute to decreasing reliance on single-occupancy automobile use through improvements to transit services, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, and land use patterns that support alternative transportation choices.

One of the road segments being examined in the Complete Streets pilot study is B&A Boulevard between Nursery Road and Camp Meade Road (MD 170), along the western side of the Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community. This road segment is served by Light Rail stations at either end.

To date, four projects have been identified in the updated Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan that would enhance the network in Brooklyn Park:

- ? Ritchie Highway from Belle Grove Rd to I-695 – complete sidewalk sections and provide bicycle improvements.
- ? Ritchie Highway /Hammonds Lane - provide pedestrian improvements at the intersection.
- ? Belle Grove Road from Ritchie Highway to B&A Boulevard - complete the multiuse trail.
- ? Church Street from Ritchie Highway to Baltimore City Line – provide bicycle improvements.

The Plan recommends completion of a multipurpose trail along Belle Grove Road (MD 170) from 10th Avenue to MD 2/Poteet Street. The first phase of the trail, extending from MD 648 to 10th Avenue, was completed with State assistance under the Community Safety and Enhancement Program.

Additionally, improved access to transit would be achieved by completion of pedestrian features (sidewalk or hiker-biker trail) continuously from Belle Grove Road in Brooklyn Park, across B&A Boulevard and southward along Camp Meade Road, and connecting to the BWI Trail. Sections of this route currently include a trail or sidewalks but the entire length is not complete. The County will pursue opportunities for future connection with the State Highway Administration.

The Action Plan will promote these projects and identify implementation strategies and funding opportunities.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) Which community groups or stakeholders will be key to the implementation of the initiatives and projects noted in this section? *(Answer Space 4,000 characters)*

The Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Transportation Division, will take the lead to develop and implement plans to enhance the overall transportation system. Key partners will include the County Department of Public Works and the State Mass Transit Administration and State Highway Administration.

A Brooklyn Park Revitalization Committee was appointed in 2010 to combine the efforts of various County departments, Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), and Arundel Community Development Services (ACDS) in promoting and implementing the revitalization of Brooklyn Park. The committee includes expertise in economic development, community development, capital project planning, and public participation.

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Chesapeake Arts Center
North Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Brooklyn Park Community Associations

The Revitalization Committee will continue to meet regularly to discuss specific implementation tasks needed, identify grant and other funding opportunities, develop outreach and marketing strategies, identify opportunity sites, track progress, and provide coordination among the key stakeholders. The Revitalization Committee will also provide input on recommendations pertaining to transportation plans.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

F. Coordinating and Leveraging Policies and Investment

(1) What specific steps will the Sustainable Community Workgroup take to coordinate policies and funding streams to remove barriers to investment and maximize and increase funding in the proposed Sustainable Community Area? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The County Office of Planning and Zoning, ACDS, Inc., AAEDC, and AAWDC work as a team to promote the County's sustainability goals. As a result, established policies are coordinated and build upon one another. Governing plans as adopted reflect these collective goals and policies.

Current barriers to investment in the Brooklyn Park community include disinvestment in older commercial areas, unemployment, a need for specialized job training, access to transportation, commercial vacancies and a lack of attractive workforce housing.

The Sustainable Community workgroup will bring to the table their respective areas of expertise to address these barriers. The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) will analyze the market and identify appropriate services and businesses that could provide employment for residents of the area. Once identified, the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC) will coordinate with AAEDC to provide appropriate training opportunities to meet the needs of the employers. The County and the State Department of Transportation will work together to ensure that adequate public transportation exists so that these newly trained workers will be able to access the jobs for which they have been trained. AAEDC will identify new users to occupy the vacant offices and storefronts which will also create new employment opportunities. Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS) will continue to rehabilitate existing affordable housing stock using available Federal, State and local funds.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(2) How is the proposed Sustainable Community Plan consistent with other existing community or comprehensive plans? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

The Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community Action Plan is consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives established and adopted in all of the County's principal planning documents. Some of these are listed below.

Goals from the Brooklyn Park Small Area Plan (2004):

- ? Revitalize the area's housing market and improve the housing stock to serve a mix of incomes.
- ? Improve the streetscape appearance along Ritchie Highway.
- ? Provide pedestrian facilities to connect neighborhoods to shopping, schools, parks, transit, and other major destinations.

Goals and Policies from the General Development Plan (2009):

- ? Encourage mixed-use development with jobs, housing, shopping, transportation and other services within walking distance.
- ? Promote retention and expansion of businesses through financial assistance, employee training, and other incentives.
- ? Focus economic development and business attraction efforts in Town Centers, Mixed Use Districts, Commercial Revitalization Districts, and areas with transit access.
- ? Enhance commercial hubs and corridors to create thriving and attractive centers that serve both local communities and regional needs.

Strategies from the Consolidated Plan (FY 2011-FY2015):

- ? Expand programs to acquire and rehabilitate homes to improve and stabilize the housing stock and increase affordable housing options.
- ? Offer a variety of programs and incentives that will encourage homeowners to invest in their community by upgrading and modernizing their homes.
- ? Support programs and efforts which seek to improve quality of life for Brooklyn Park residents, such as after school and child care programs, elderly services, health services, and job training opportunities.

Strategies from the Brooklyn Park Urban Design Study (2010):

- ? Establish a comprehensive streetscape improvement program focused on the Ritchie Highway corridor and Hammonds Lane.
- ? Identify and secure sources of funding for streetscape improvements.
- ? Strengthen links between the business community and the arts community.
- ? Work with property owners and developers to facilitate redevelopment that is consistent with the Urban Design guidelines.

Other policies and objectives cited in the Action Plan are derived from the Transit Development Plan (2010), the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (2013), and other local plans.

IV. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

(3) How will the Plan help leverage and/or sustain more private sector investments? (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Existing incentive programs will collectively serve to leverage private sector investments in Brooklyn Park. These include the range of development incentives, tax credits, loan programs, grant funds, and capital programs discussed in the Action Plan. Some of these programs are already targeted toward Brooklyn Park through its designations as a Commercial Revitalization District and a Neighborhood Revitalization Area. This provides eligible commercial property owners assistance to make improvements to their properties through the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Program, the Business Corridor Investment Loan Program (BCILP) and other financial incentives as well as architectural services. Two businesses in Brooklyn Park have recently received assistance through the BCILP program for property improvements, which has generated interest among local commercial properties in the area.

By pursuing the range of business assistance programs available through the State DBED, private business investment can be further encouraged. The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation will continue to focus on Brooklyn Park, using its recent market study to identify new businesses and attract new investors into the area. The State's Sustainable Communities Tax Credit will also offer another incentive for private investment.

Continued focused efforts toward residential property rehabilitation by ACDS, Inc. can also instigate private investments, particularly in the targeted blocks in Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village. Actions to increase homeownership in the area will lead to more private homeowner investments.

New private investment along the commercial corridor will also be encouraged by the development of primary infill opportunity sites. For example, completion of the planned Cedar Hill PUD will bring 1,600 or more new residences to Brooklyn Park. Redevelopment of the former Southview Shopping Center site may provide new housing, retail or office uses or a mix of these. Development of the former Belle Grove sand and gravel mining site can provide a range of housing options, including workforce housing, with public transit access. The County will use all public incentive tools available to facilitate development of these sites in a manner that addresses the goals of this Action Plan and invites new retail and employment uses to the community.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

For the Plan parts of section IV (A through F):

(1) List the specific outcomes that the Plan seeks to produce. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Outcome 1: A more attractive and vibrant commercial district along Ritchie Highway.

Outcome 2: Improved pedestrian amenities and streetscape appearance along Ritchie Highway and Belle Grove Road.

Outcome 3: A successful and competitive business community and increased employment opportunities in Brooklyn Park.

Outcome 4: Aging and deteriorating rowhomes, specifically in the Brooklyn Heights and Arundel Village communities, have been transformed to quality affordable housing options.

Outcome 5: High quality workforce housing units will be available in Brooklyn Park.

Outcome 6: Brooklyn Park serves as a regional center for the cultural arts.

Outcome 7: Increased transit ridership in Brooklyn Park with better connectivity to the local and regional transit network.

Outcome 8: Improved stormwater management and reduced pollutant loads from stormwater runoff.

V. PROGRESS MEASURES

(2) And, list the specific benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward these outcomes. (Answer Space 4,000 characters)

Benchmark 1-1: Update local development regulations to provide additional incentives for redevelopment in Commercial Revitalization Districts.

Benchmark 1-2: Update local development regulations to include additional design standards in Commercial Revitalization Districts.

Benchmark 1-3: Develop a façade improvement program with design guidelines for the main commercial corridor.

Benchmark 1-4: Identify opportunities and strategies for public-private partnering to develop a public plaza/activity center within the commercial corridor.

Benchmark 2-1: Complete the multipurpose trail along Belle Grove Road from its current terminus at 10th Avenue to MD 2.

Benchmark 2-2: Complete projects identified in the current Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan with funding from developer mitigation projects, the County Capital Improvement Program, and/or all eligible State funding programs.

Benchmark 2-3: Revise the County code to allow use of development impact fees for sidewalk and multiuse trail projects as well as road projects.

Benchmark 2-4: Establish a funding mechanism for implementing streetscape improvements in the commercial revitalization district.

Benchmark 3-1: Conduct regular outreach and marketing events in Brooklyn Park to promote participation in the Arundel Business Loan Fund, Business Corridor Investment Loan Program, Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Program, and other financial incentive programs for local business retention and expansion.

Benchmark 3-2: Develop and employ business attraction strategies to increase commercial office and employment uses in Brooklyn Park.

Benchmark 4-1: Twenty existing townhomes will be acquired and rehabilitated, including extensive exterior enhancements, for sale or rent to qualified households over the next five years.

Benchmark 4-2: Twenty owner-occupied rowhomes will be rehabilitated, including extensive exterior enhancements, utilizing a combination of low or no interest financing over the next five years.

Benchmark 4-3: Include energy retrofits in all property rehabilitation projects where feasible.

Benchmark 5-1: Create development incentives as leveraging for provision of workforce housing units in strategic opportunity infill sites or redevelopment sites.

Benchmark 5-2: Target available funds through the HOME and Low Income Housing Tax Credits programs for construction of new workforce housing units in partnership with private developers.

Benchmark 6-1: Identify additions to or expansions of programs offered by the Chesapeake Arts Center to increase patronage.

Benchmark 6-2: Include local business promotions and sponsorships at Arts Center events.

Benchmark 6-3: Encourage commercial property owners to fill vacant storefronts with arts-related interim uses, such as rotating gallery displays.

Benchmark 6-4: Create affordable live/work opportunities to attract artists to live in Brooklyn Park.

Benchmark 7-1: Implement the Patapsco Light Rail Station to Brooklyn Park transit route alternative in the 2010

Transit Development Plan.

Benchmark 7-2: Upon finalizing the Complete Streets Study, identify potential improvements along B&A Boulevard to enhance pedestrian access to the Light Rail stations.

Benchmark 8-1: Complete the watershed restoration projects in Brooklyn Park currently funded in the Capital Budget and Program.

Benchmark 8-2: Incorporate environmental site design features in all redevelopment projects.

REPLACE THIS PAGE WITH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY APPLICATION
DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") to make such inquiries as necessary, including, but not limited to, credit inquiries, in order to verify the accuracy of the statements made by the applicant and to determine the creditworthiness of the applicant.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1983.18, the Department advises you that certain personal information is necessary to determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Availability of this information for public inspection is governed by Maryland's Access to Public Records Act, State Government Article, Section 10-611 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "Act"). This information will be disclosed to appropriate staff of the Department or to public officials for purposes directly connected with administration of this financial assistance program for which its use is intended. Such information may be shared with State, federal or local government agencies, which have a financial role in the project. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal records in accordance with the Act.

The Department intends to make available to the public certain information regarding projects recommended for funding in the Sustainable Community Plan. The information available to the public will include the information in this application, as may be supplemented or amended. This information may be confidential under the Act. If you consider this information confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate that in writing and attach the same to this application.

You agree that not attaching an objection constitutes your consent to the information being made available to the public and a waiver of any rights you may have regarding this information under the Act.

I have read and understand the above paragraph. Applicant's Initials: _____

Anyone who knowingly makes, or causes to be made, any false statement or report relative to this financial assistance application, for the purposes of influencing the action of the Department on such application, is subject to immediate cancellation of financial assistance and other penalties authorized by law.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Sustainable Communities Plan or Project(s) proposed in this Application can be accomplished and further certifies that the information set herein and in any attachment in support hereof is true, correct, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signature

Print Name and Title

Date